OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, NO (89-69)

DATE: 2/23/67

FROM : SA DONALD L. HUGHES

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY
DALLAS, TEXAS, 11-22-63
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING

DR. NICHOLAS CHETTA, Coroner, Orleans Parish, NOLA, was contacted in his office at approximately 11:45 A.M., 2/23/67, at which time a large group of newsmen were seen leaving his office. DR. CHETTA advised that he had just released a report of his findings on the death of DAVID FERRIE and made available a copy of the pathologist's report which is attached.

He stated that further tests are being made which may be included in the protocol to be filed as part of his permanent record on this death, but it is his opinion the cause of death has been properly established. As soon as such additional reports are ready for filing in the public records, he will advise this office. He does not intend to call press conferences to announce the results of these examinations but will answer press inquiries as they are received.

He further commented that he is under pressure from JIM GARRISON, District Attorney, to find a suicide angle in the FERRIE death. GARRISON has stated he wants a suicide report, but DR. CHETTA said he intends to stay strictly with medical facts and will do nothing for GARRISON other than supply the facts set out in his office records.

DR. CHETTA has in his personal possession a document which was described in some of the news media as a possible suicide document. He said only the first two lines of thedocument have been made public. At present it is his intention to withhold this paper from his report with some expectation that the publicity will lessen and possibly the reporters will forget about it. He said the paper is a rambling account of FERRIE's apparent grievances against various public officials including GARRISON, Superintendent GIARRUSSO, Judge COCKE, Judge CHRISTENBERRY, etc. FERRIE has been in frequent difficulty with the authorities in past years because of his homosexual record, and the paper seems to point out all the injustice done him in the past by prosecutors, judges, etc. DR. CHETTA said he saw a distinct harm in letting this document become public now because of the many prominent people mentioned.

89-69-1445

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FBI — NEW ORLEANS

RECOMMENDED ACTION: File for information.

DLH

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